THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Some militant activities were reported in the past in some protected areas like Dudhwa, Corbett, Kanha, Indravathi, Manas and Nagarjun Sagar, which were not conducive to Wildlife Conservation. However, the situation is gradually being brought under control.

(c) Assistance is being provided to the States for purchase of arms and ammunitions, communication equipment, vehicles, legal support etc. to the extent of available resources under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Besides, eco-development schemes are also being implemented in the fringe areas of protected areas to benefit local people and seek their co-operation and support for protection enforcement. However, the rate of convinction of wildlife offence cases are slow and the details of which are maintained by the states.

Dumping of toxic wastes by developed countries in India

1277. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the country has become the dumping ground for disposal of toxic wastes generated by industries in developed countries;

(b) the names of toxic wastes being dumped in the country and from which country;

(c) whether it is a fact that these wastes pose a threat to human healh and are an environment hazard; and

(d) the steps Government contemplate to check this practice; if not, altogether ban it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). As per the information available no such cases of dumping of toxic wastes have been defected.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government of India have notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these rules import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes may be allowed for processing or re-use as raw materials, after examining each case on merit.

Closure of polluting industrial units

1278. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of industrial units have been closed due to their failure in controlling industrial pollution;

(b) if so, the number of such units during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the industry to which these units mainly related to; and

(d) the number of the units that are now functioning after fulfilling the pollution control requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board is, monitoring 1551 large and medium scale units identified under 17 categories of highly polluting industries. Of these units being monitored, the numbers closed during the last three years for reasons which include failure to con-

trol industrial pollution are as follows:

Year	Number of units closed
1992-93	51
1993-94	26
1994-95	30
	107

Apart from these 107 industries, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had on different dates ordered the closure of more than 500 industrial units in the Taj Trapezium Zone and in the Ganga Basin. The compliance of these industries is being monitored by the Hon'ble Court.

(c) These 107 industries belong to 13 categories, namely Aluminium Smelter, Cement, Distillery, Dyes & Dye Intermediate Fertilizer, Leather, Pesticide, Petrochemical, Basic Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Pulp & Paper, Oil Refinery, Sugar and Thermal Power Plant.

(d) None of the 107 units is presently in operation.

Furs of Wild Species seized in Darjeeling

1279. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past Darjeeling Police have reportedly arrested a person in Darjeeling town with a truck load of valuable furs, allegedly belonging to precious wild species from Hamilayan region worth crores of rupees in international market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same has been handed over to the authorities of wildlife Department in Darjeeling by the local police authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH); (a) Yes, Sir. The international market value of these seized product is however not likely to be more than Rs. 1 lakh.

(b) and (c) The State Government have reported that 190 Kgs of animal fur was seized by the Police from Darjeeling town and the case was handed over to the State Wildlife Authorities. The consignment was got examined by the Zoological survey of India who have reported that it contains mixed furs of flying squirrels and cats.

Allotment of forest land

1280. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen an article by the famous journalists, Usha Rai, headlined "Government Plans to put a lifeline on rent";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government are considering leasing out forest lands to industries;

(c) if so, what is the rationale thereof;

(d) whether Government would like to allot such lands on long-term lease to tribals, farmers, ex-servicemen and educated unemployed persons; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH); (a) Yes, Sir.